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WAREHAM AND PURBECK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1955



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PREFACE

Public Health Office,
12a Institute Road,
Swanage, Dorset.

To the Chairman and Members of the Wareham and Purbeck
Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madeline, Lady Lees and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District for the Year 1955.

The health of the district remained satisfactory throughout the year, and the incidence of infectious disease remained comparatively low. There was one fatal case of acute poliomyelitis.

The vital statistics for the district show no marked variation from those for the previous year and call for little comment; they compare favourably with those for England and Wales.

It is regretted that the Council has been forced to slow up the house building programme after having made such excellent progress in previous years. Although the number of applicants for houses which totalled 531 at the end of 1947 had been reduced to 319 at the end of 1955, there are still many families in urgent need of improved housing accommodation. A most satisfactory feature is the increased number of houses being improved with the aid of grant under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949; during the year 101 applications were made in respect of houses compared with 41 in 1954.

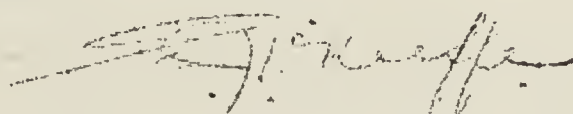
Negotiations were proceeding at the end of the year in connection with the Council's Comprehensive Water Scheme; it is not anticipated that these negotiations will hold up the scheme when a starting date is announced.

The report is set out in sections in the following order -

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Once again I wish to thank the Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration, and the Sanitary Inspectors and other Officers of the Council for their help and co-operation throughout the year. In addition I would like to thank Mr. Grant for his help in preparing this report.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,



Medical Officer of Health

July, 1956.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

E. J. O'Keeffe, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

E. D. Grant, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. - Cert. R.S.I., & S.I.E.J.B.,
Meat and Food Cert.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

F. A. White, M.S.I.A. - Cert. R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.

Office accommodation and clerical assistance for the Medical Officer of Health who is also Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Wareham and Swanage Urban District, and Assistant County Medical Officer, Dorset, is provided jointly by the authorities concerned.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

General Statistics

1. Area of the Rural District	...	...	...	95,954 acres
2. Population -				
At Census 1951	...	...	...	19,307
As estimated by Registrar General				
Home population - mid 1954	...			20,030
mid 1955	...			20,210
3. Total number of inhabited houses according to the				
Rate Book - at end of 1954	...			5,315
at end of 1955	...			5,291
4. Rateable value at 1st. April, 1955	...	...		£105,256
5. Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	...	£425.0.11d.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1955

			<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Live Births</u>					
Total registered	...	...	319	164	155
Legitimate	...	...	308	158	150
Illegitimate	...	...	11	6	5
<u>Still Births</u>					
Total registered	...	...	1	-	1
Legitimate	...	...	1	-	1
Illegitimate	...	...	-	-	-
<u>Deaths</u>					
Total registered	...	...	180	103	77
<u>Infant Mortality</u>					
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</u>					
Total registered	...	...	8	5	3
Legitimate	...	...	8	5	3
Illegitimate	...	...	-	-	-
<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age</u>					
Total registered	...	...	6	4	2
Legitimate	...	...	6	4	2
Illegitimate	...	...	-	-	-

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES - 1955

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Home Population 15.8

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Home Population 8.9

Area Comparability Factors

Births 1.11

Deaths 1.10

	<u>Wareham & Purbeck</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Live Birth Rate(Standardised)per 1,000 Home Population	17.5	15.0
Still Birth Rate(Standardised)per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births	3.1	23.1
Death Rate(Standardised) per 1,000 Home Population	9.8	11.7
Infant mortality rates per 1,000 Live Births - All causes under 1 year of age	25.1	24.9

CAUSES OF DEATH - YEAR 1955

(Supplied by the Registrar General)

Cause of death				Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	-	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	2	-	2
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	-	-	-
5.	Whooping cough	...	...	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	-	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	1	-	1
8.	Measles	...	...	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	1	-	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	4	-	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	1	-	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	-	3	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	-	1	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	9	9	18
15.	Leukemia, aleukemia	...	...	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	-	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	10	16	26
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	16	11	27
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	3	1	4
20.	Other heart diseases	...	...	14	10	24
21.	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	5	1	6
22.	Influenza	...	...	-	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	7	4	11
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	6	3	9
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	1	-	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	1	-	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	-	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	2	-	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	5	-	5
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	-	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases	...	...	10	10	20
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	-	-	-
34.	All other accidents	...	...	3	3	6
35.	Suicide	...	...	2	-	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	-	-	-
Total				103	77	180

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply of the district remained substantially the same as in 1954. No new sources of public supply were brought into use, and apart from the laying of mains to serve the whole of the village of Bere Regis from the Briantspuddle source there were no major extensions of existing supplies.

The yield from the borehole at East Knighton decreased to such an extent at the beginning of August that supplies had to be restricted. It is proposed to connect the Winfrith distribution system to the main Comprehensive Scheme as soon as possible.

Only those parts of the district which are served by Public Water Undertakings can be regarded as having a water supply which is satisfactory both in quantity and quality. In nearly all parts of the remainder of the district there is some degree of water shortage during summer months, and in dry periods there is acute shortage especially in the Valley Road Harmans Cross area and the Glebe Estate, Studland which rely mainly on rain-water supplies, and the Wool village where many of the newer houses rely on shallow wells.

The smaller village supplies are variable in quantity and quality and are not wholly satisfactory. The majority of the old wells in the district are poorly constructed and yield water of doubtful quality.

A total of 124 samples of water were taken during the year for bacteriological examination; 74 were taken from public supplies, 4 from small piped supplies and 47 from individual wells. The results of bacteriological examinations are given on page 5.

Statutory Areas of Supply of Water Undertakings within the District

Poole Corporation Supply: The parishes of Lytchett Minster and Lytchett Matravers, so much of the parish of Morden as lies to the north of an imaginary straight line commencing at the most westerly extremity of the parish of Lytchett Matravers and running in a direction west by north terminating at the southernmost extremity of the parish of Sturminster Marshall, and so much of the parish of Wareham St. Martin as lies to the east of an imaginary line drawn parallel to and 200 yards to the west of the main road from Blandford to Wareham.

Swanage Urban District Council's supply: The parish of Langton Matravers and the village of Corfe Castle.

Lulworth Castle Estate supply: The parish of West Lulworth.

Proposed New Water Supplies

Main Comprehensive Scheme: This scheme is for the supply of water from the Council's borehole at Briantspuddle which was acquired in 1952, to all parts of the district not already served by a piped supply from a public water undertaking. The scheme has been included provisionally by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in the Grant-aided work for 1956/57. Terms are being negotiated for supplying water in bulk to the Swanage Urban District Council, the War Department and the proposed Atomic Energy Research Establishment. Mains are being laid in Bere Regis, and the Ministry has authorised an extension to Rye Hill - this will be a 9" diameter main to link up with the proposed trunk main from Blackhill to Grange.

Temporary Village District Schemes

These are schemes for the supply of water from local sources until water becomes available from the main Briantspuddle source, and are planned so that the greater part of the installation and distributing mains can be used when the main comprehensive scheme is developed. Schemes have already been completed for supplying Church Knowle, Bloxworth and Morden, Winfrith, Stoborough and Ridge.

Acton. (Langton Matravers) This is a scheme for supplying Acton, the water being taken in bulk from the Swanage Urban District Council's supply. The scheme has been approved and a contractor appointed and it is anticipated work will commence in the Spring of 1956.

Studland. This scheme is still in abeyance.

Piped Supplies.

Public:

Affpuddle, Turners Puddle and a part of Bere Regis from the Briantspuddle source. The water is derived from a deep bore in the chalk at Briantspuddle and is chlorinated. Samples taken for bacteriological examination have proved satisfactory.

Bestwall area and a few houses at Worgret from the Wareham Borough Council's supply.

Church Knowle, Bloxworth and Morden, and Winfrith are each supplied from local sources by the Rural District Council.

Corfe Castle and Langton Matravers from the Swanage Urban District Council's supply.

Stoborough and Ridge are supplied by the Rural District Council with water purchased in bulk from the Wareham Borough Council.

Upton, Lytchett Minster, Organford and Sandford from Poole Corporation supply.

West Lulworth, East Lulworth and Coombe Keynes from the Lulworth Castle Estate supply.

These supplies have been satisfactory throughout the year both with regard to quantity and quality.

Privately Owned.

Chaldon Herring has a standpipe supply from Lulworth Castle Estate, and the water bacteriologically is highly satisfactory.

Kingston, Kimmeridge and Wool village have small piped gravity supplies from surface springs. The water with the exception of the Kingston supply which is now chlorinated, is untreated and the results of bacteriological examination of samples taken from these small supplies are variable.

Studland Village supply is derived from surface water collected on neighbouring heathland areas. The water is sand filtered and give consistent highly satisfactory results. The quantity of water available is very limited and shortage is experienced during summer months.

There has been no major alteration to the source of supply in these areas during the year.

Number of Houses and Population in each Parish having a piped supply.

(i) Water Supplied by Statutory Undertakings

Parish	No. of Houses	Popula- tion	Name of Supply	Direct to Houses		By means of Standpipe	
				Houses	Pop.	Houses	Pop.
Affpuddle	119	419	R.D.C.	51	172	46	154
Arne	291	860	"	190	528	-	-
Bere Regis	357	1192	"	78	255	-	-
Bloxworth	73	204	"	67	190	-	-
Church Knowle	130	418	"	95	317	-	-
Corfe Castle	482	1696	Swanage U.D.C.	262	903	46	151
Langton Matravers	357	1193	"	151	543	130	410
Lytchett Matravers	365	1083	Poole Corporation	131	478	-	-
Lytchett Minster	773	2289	" "	625	1420	15	48
Wareham St. Martin	411	1272	" "	392	1119	-	-
West Lulworth	210	778	Lulworth Estate	129	470	70	256
Wool	576	2043	Bov. Camp W.D.	148	451	18	63
Morden	157	492	R.D.C.	124	458	-	-
Winfrith	202	680	"	132	486	-	-
Tonerspuddle	24	53	"	10	27	5	14

(ii) Water Supplied by Private Estate - Village Supplies

Chaldon Herring	71	197	Lulworth Estate	11	29	25	80
Coombe Keynes	36	106	" "	15	40	17	47
Corfe Castle	482	1696	Encombe Estate	32	113		
			Bankes Estate	10	35		
East Holme	17	59	Private supply	8	21		
East Lulworth	84	275	Lulworth Estate	34	109	40	127
East Stoke	116	349	Private supplies	12	40		
Kimmeridge	28	85	" "	6	19	22	66
Lytchett Matravers	356	2209	" "	11	36		
Moreton	87	323	" "	8	25		
Steeple	69	168	" "	8	23	4	11
Studland	208	634	Bankes Estate	122	360	37	116
~~Tonerspuddle~~	~~24~~	~~53~~	~~Private~~	~~10~~	~~27~~	~~5~~	~~14~~
Wool	576	2043	Private supplies	98	227	-	-
Worth Matravers	196	557	" "	11	31	-	-

Bacteriological Examinations of water supplies

Water Undertaking	No. of Samples	Satis- factory	Suspi- cious	Unsatis- factory
<u>1. Public Supplies</u>				
Poole Corporation	1	1	-	-
Lulworth Estate	1	1	-	-
Wareham R.D.C. - Briantspuddle	16	16	-	-
Church Knowle	12	11	-	1
Stoborough	12	11	-	1
Bloxworth	11	11	-	-
Morden	7	7	-	-
Winfrith	13	12	-	1
<u>2. Village Piped supplies privately owned</u>				
Studland	1	1	-	-
Kingston	1	1	-	-
Wool	2	2	-	-
<u>3. Individual Wells and Supplies</u>				
Lytchett Matravers	17	6	-	11
Langton Matravers	1	-	-	1
Bere Regis	7	3	-	4
Church Knowle	1	1	-	-
East Stoke	11	1	1	9
Stoborough	1	1	-	-
East Burton	1	-	-	1
Corfe Castle	2	1	1	-
Worth Matravers	2	1	-	1
Organford	1	-	1	-
Harmans Cross	3	2	-	1

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

There are main sewerage systems in the villages of Langton Matravers and West Lulworth, and in the Sandford and Bestwall areas of the parish of Wareham St. Martin. Particulars of these sewerage systems are given on page 7.

Work has commenced on the sewerage and sewage disposal scheme at Briantspuddle. The need for main sewerage in the principal villages in the district is appreciated by the Council, and it is intended to carry out the schemes which are at present in abeyance for Corfe Castle and Wool as soon as circumstances permit. The Council is already committed, in addition to the Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme for the district, to the carrying out of the sewerage scheme for the Upton area of Lytchett Minster.

Proposed Sewerage Schemes

Briantspuddle: During the year a start was made on the scheme for sewerage the village and the construction of disposal works. It is hoped the scheme will be completed by the end of the Summer 1956.

Sandford: The Council has accepted a tender for extending the Sandford sewerage system to an area East of Gore Hill. This extension will ultimately serve 110 houses.

Upton: A Public Inquiry into the Council's proposals for the sewerage of Upton and the construction of disposal works was conducted by Sir Hugh Maloney, Bart., M.I.C.E. of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, at the Council Offices on 23rd. March, 1955. The Ministry has approved the sewerage and sewage disposal scheme submitted by the Council. Suggestions by the Lytchett Minster Parish Council that the Rural District Council should obtain further particulars of Poole Corporation's scheme for adjoining areas were to be considered at a meeting at the Ministry in January 1956.

Corfe Castle: This scheme which was the subject of a Ministry of Health Inquiry in 1947, is in abeyance for the time being.

Wool: Plans for the sewerage of this village were completed several years ago, but protracted negotiations with the War Department for the purchasing of the existing disposal works at Bovington broke down in 1951, since then the scheme has been in abeyance.

Public Conveniences:

Corfe Castle: The Rural District Council provided a public convenience in 1951, to meet the need of tourists visiting this village.

Lulworth Cove: Conveniences are provided at Lulworth Cove by the owner of the beach to meet the need of holiday makers.

Studland: Conveniences are provided at both ends of the beach by the owner to meet the needs of holiday makers. The Council's scheme for the conversion of the old telephone exchange into public conveniences to serve the village was submitted for approval to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and arrangements were made to complete the purchase of the site when the Minister's formal approval is received.

Number of Houses Connected to Public Sewers and Number of Cesspools abolished during the year

Parish	No. of Connections to Sewers	No. of Cesspools abolished
Langton Matravers	6	1
Wareham St. Martin		
(a) Sandford	2	1
(b) Bestwall	3	Nil
West Lulworth	1	1
Total	12	3

Public Sewerage System

1 Parish	2 Locality	3 No. of houses connected to sewer	4 No. of houses within 100' which could be connected to sewer	5 Total houses in parish	6 % Col. 4 connected to sewer	7 % Col. 5 connected to sewer
Langton Matravers	Village	125	220	389	56.7%	32.1%
Wareham St. Martin	Sandford	155	172	481	90.1%	44.5%
	Bestwall	59	59		100 %	
West Lulworth	Village	145	150	210	96%	69%

Remarks: The West Lulworth sewage which is untreated is discharged into the sea in the deep water to the west of Lulworth Cove.

Sandford sewage is treated by sedimentation, sludge drying and effluent filtration. The effluent is discharged into the River Piddle.

Bestwall sewage is discharged untreated into the adjoining Wareham Borough sewer.

Langton Matravers sewage is discharged untreated into the Swanage Urban District Council's sewerage system.

Public Cleansing

Refuse Collection

A fortnightly collection service was maintained throughout the year.

The refuse of the whole district is disposed of in a large disused gravel pit on an uninhabited heathland site. There has been no complaint of nuisance or rat infestation arising from the site.

Cesspool Emptying

The cesspool emptier worked overtime in order to deal with all requests for this service.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Summary of Sanitary Inspectors' Work for the Year 1955

Total Number of Inspections and Visits

Complaints and Nuisances:

Investigated	...	...	...	...	123
Visits	...	...	...	...	130

Housing

Housing Acts

Number of houses inspected for defects	...	...	...	172
Visits for such purposes	...	...	...	184
Houses requiring repair	...	...	...	31
Houses overcrowded	...	...	...	10
Revisits	...	...	...	19

Public Health Acts

No. of houses inspected	...	...	...	182
No. of houses requiring repair	...	...	...	52
Visits	...	...	...	194

Drainage

Inspection of Cesspools, Septic tanks etc....	...	...	311
Drains reconstructed or repaired...	...	...	11
Drains tested	...	...	140
Cesspool drainage connected to sewer	...	...	6
Effluents sampled	...	...	Nil

Water Samples

Visits	...	...	...	78
Samples	...	...	...	69

Registered and Other Premises

Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	33
Schools	...	...	...	...	19
Public Premises (Cinemas, lavatories etc.)	...			...	49
Piggeries and Stables		...	...	...	23
Factories	...	...	...	...	35

Infectious and other Diseases

No. of houses visited	...	...	...	20
Visits	...	...	...	20
Disinfections carried out	...	...	...	13
Bedding and other clothing disinfected	...	...	...	Nil

Verminous Premises

No. of houses visited	...	...	...	11
No. of visits	...	...	...	15
Bedding and other clothing disinfected	...	...	...	5
Disinfestations	...	...	...	16

Food
Visits

Food Premises - Stores, Shops, Stalls, etc.	...	...	188
Slaughterhouses, Butchers Shops	...	...	576
Bakehouses	...	...	35
Dairies, Milkshops	...	...	46

Food Sampling

Milk Samples	...	...	Nil
Ice Cream	...	...	19

Diseases of Animals

No. of visits	...	...	6
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Abatement of Nuisances - Public Health Acts

Nuisances investigated	...	...	123
Informal Notices served	...	...	18
Statutory Notices served	...	...	1
No. of Nuisances abated after (a) Informal action	...	...	17
(b) Statutory action	...	...	1
No. of Informal Notices outstanding 31.12.55	...	...	5
No. of Statutory Notices outstanding 31.12.55	...	...	1

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The following is a copy of the Rodent Officer's report for the year ended 31st. December, 1955.

<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>All others including business premises</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>	<u>Total</u>
Notified	-	112	37	4	153
Surveyed under the Act	4	232	10	132	378
Rats (Major)	-	-	-	-	-
(Minor)	3	23	8	37	71
Mice (Major)	-	-	-	-	-
(Minor)	1	89	6	-	96
Treated by L.A.	4	16	-	-	20

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply:

All milk now sold in the district is either "pasteurised", "tuberculin tested pasteurised" or "tuberculin tested", as the district is part of a specified area under Section 45 of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950.

No. of Milk Distributors on Register 31.12.55	...	23
No. of Dairy premises on Register 31.12.55	...	19
Visits made to dairies during the year	...	48
No. of Notices served on Owners with respect to dairies		5
No. of Notices complied with	...	4

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1949

The following licences granted by the Local Authority were in force at the end of the year:-

No. of Dealers Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	13
No. of Dealers Licences for Pasteurised Milk	...	18
No. of Supplementary Licences to sell Tuberculin tested milk		6
No. of Supplementary Licences to sell Pasteurised milk		9

In addition one Pasteurising establishment in the district is licensed by the Food and Drug Authority.

Milk Sampling:

The following are particulars of 173 samples of milk taken in the district by the Food and Drug Authority. Copies of the reports on all samples are sent to the District Medical Officer of Health.

Designation	No. of Samples	Results of Tests			
		Methylene Blue		Phosphatase	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	125	125	-	125	-
Tuberculin tested	17	12	5	-	-
Pasteurised T.T.	31	31	-	31	-

Ice Cream

During the year there were 3 new registrations for the sale of Ice-Cream under Section 14(2) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. This brings the total number of premises on the register to 69.

19 samples were taken during the year and submitted to the Methylene Blue Reductase test with the following results.

<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Provisional Grade</u>
15	1
1	2
2	3
1	4

Meat and other FoodsMeat:

This has been the first complete year since the de-rationing of meat supplies in July, 1954, and the three slaughterhouses originally licensed by the Council have continued in use.

They are -

1. Parkstone & Bournemouth Co-Operative Society Slaughterhouse,
Palmerston Road, Upton.
2. J.W. Moss, West Street, Corfe Castle.
3. T.E. Applin & Sons, Bere Regis.

Throughout the year 576 visits for the purpose of meat inspection have been made and the enormity of the duties has meant that, with the inception of emergency slaughtering, meat inspection has been carried out entirely out of normal office hours.

The following table gives the details of carcasses inspected during the year -

		Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
No. of animals killed		184	882	575	1947	10,224
No. of carcasses inspected		184	882	575	1947	10,224
All diseases except T.B.	Whole carcasses condemned.	1	11	5	8	23
	Carcasses of which some part was condemned.	21	283	5	383	1597
	Percentage	12.0%	33.3%	1.74%	20.0%	15.8%
T.B. only	Whole carcasses condemned.	-	6	-	-	12
	Carcasses of which some part was condemned.	10	102	-	-	95
	Percentage	5.4%	12.2%	-	-	1.04%

Total weight of meat and offal condemned - 11 tons, 1 cwt. 0 qtrs. 11 lbs.

Other Foods

The undermentioned food stuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and were condemned.

Meat Products

1 tin stewed steak - 5 lbs.
2 tins porkluncheon meat - 4 lbs.
9 tins boneless ham - 81 lbs.
3 tins corned beef - 9 lbs.

Tinned Fruit

2 tins peaches - 28 ozs.
1 tin pears - 14 ozs.

Milk and Milk Products

4 tins cream - 2 lbs.
1 tin condensed milk - $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.

Fresh meat

Part hind quarter - 80 lbs.
Part hind quarter - 64 lbs.

Knackers Yards

There is one Knackers Yard in the district, in which conditions were found to be satisfactory throughout the year.

Water Cress

Throughout the year routine inspections were made at the water-cress beds at Wool, Bere Regis and Waddock Cross, and conditions were found satisfactory.

Preserved Food Premises

The total number of premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of preserved foods at the end of the year was nine.

Food Premises(1) No. of Food Premises by type of business in the district

Grocery & General Provisions	61	Green Groceries	5
Sweets - Confectioners	11	Bakehouses	7
Fried Fish Shops	5	Butchers Shops	8
Hotels and Public Houses	31	Slaughterhouses	3
Cafes & Restaurants	30		

(2) No. of Food Premises by type registered(a) Under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act 1931

Manufacturing of Sausages etc.	4
Fish Frying	5
Sale of Ice Cream	69

(b) Under Milk & Dairies Regulation

Dairy Premises	19
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(3) No. of Inspections of Registered Food Premises

Premises for manufacture of sausages	10
Fish Frying Premises	13
Ice Cream "	22
Dairy "	46

H O U S I N G

The Rural Housing Survey throughout the district was continued during the year and is now nearing completion. From the table shown later in this report it can be seen that 4699 houses below a Rateable Value of £20 have been surveyed. Of these 1506 or approximately 32% are completely fit, 623 or 13% have only minor defects; 922 or 20% have major defects. A total of 1222 or 26% have been classified as requiring structural alteration and renovation while 9% have been scheduled as beyond repair at a reasonable expense.

Improvement grants under the 1949 Housing Act were continued by this Council throughout the year and some considerable number of houses have been improved. As yet these improvements have not been included in the final figures for the Rural Housing Survey, but there is little doubt that the Council have been wise in this continuation of the improvement grant policy, for this is undoubtedly one sure way of securing the improvement of housing conditions without detracting from the natural charm of the locality.

Six demolition orders were made during the year and undertakings not to use for human habitation until rendered fit were accepted in respect of five dwellings.

The number of houses completed under the Council's Housing programme was 34 compared with 60 in the previous year, and the number of applicants on the waiting list for Council houses is now 319 compared with 427 at the end of 1954.

Houses requisitioned by Local Authority

No. of houses held under requisition at 31.12.55	...	Nil
No. of houses derequisitioned during 1955	...	12

Housing Inspection

1. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year

(i)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under both Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	354
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	378
(ii)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (i) above which were inspected and recorded under the housing Consolidation Regulations 1925-1932	...	5
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	6
(iii)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous as to be prejudicial to health and unfit for habitation	...	76
(iv)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects fit for habitation	...	322

(2) Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice

Number of defective premises rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority	...	...	...	32
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a) <u>Proceedings under Section 9, 10 & 13, Housing Acts 1936</u>				
(i)	Number of houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	2
(ii)	Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice			
	(a) by owners	...	...	2
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners...			Nil
(b) <u>Proceedings under Public Health Acts</u>				
(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...		6
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied by service of Formal notice			
	(a) By owners	...	...	5
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners...			1
(c) <u>Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936</u>				
(i)(a)	Demolition Orders made	...	...	6
(b)	Undertakings not to use for human habitation until rendered fit - accepted	...	...	5
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	7
(d) <u>Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act 1936</u>				
(i)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	...		Nil
(ii)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined the tenement or underground room having been made fit			Nil

4. Housing Act, 1949 Section 20

Number of enquiries received during 1955	...	...	...	81
Number of applications approved during 1954, completed in 1955				16
Number of separate dwellings provided	...	...	...	24
Number of applications submitted during 1955		...	...	60
Number of dwellings concerned	...	...	...	101
Number of applications approved	...	...	...	57
Number of dwellings concerned	...	...	...	98
Number of applications refused	...	...	...	3
Number of schemes completed during 1955	...	...	...	33
Number of dwellings concerned	...	...	...	37
Number of schemes under construction 31.12.55,		...	...	13
Number of dwellings concerned	...	...	...	25
Number of applications under consideration at 31.12.55			...	3
Number of dwellings concerned	...	...	...	4
Number of applications approved but not yet started...			...	11
Number of dwellings concerned	...	...	...	36

5. New Houses

Total number of new houses erected during 1955 -				
(a)	Permanent	...	...	64
(b)	Prefabricated	...	...	Nil
(c)	Temporary	...	...	1
Number of houses erected during 1955 with State assistance -				
(a)	by Local Authority	(i)	Permanent	34
		(ii)	Prefabricated	Nil
(b)	by other Bodies or Persons	...	...	Nil
Number of permanent houses erected by private enterprise				
Number of temporary dwellings erected				1
Number of permanent houses owned by Local Authority				892

Housing Survey Summary

Number of houses recorded and inspected - total at end of 1955	...	4699
Category (1) No. of houses completely fit for habitation	...	1506
(2) No. of houses with minor defects only	...	623
(3) No. of houses requiring structural alterations	...	922
(4) No. of houses requiring reconditioning	...	1222
(5) No. of houses requiring demolition and replacement	...	426

Control of Moveable Dwellings

During the year the Council approved, under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936, the issue of 6 licences to station individual moveable dwellings and 20 licences to use sites for moveable dwellings.

Licences in force at 31.12.55	-	(1) Sites	...	28
		(2) Individual caravans	...	70

Included in the licences to station individual caravans are three licences granted to persons who intend building a permanent dwelling.

LOCAL AUTHORITY'S HOUSING PROGRAMME

Parish	Houses Completed 1955	In course of construction at end of 1955	Total houses owned 31.12.55	Proposed houses 1956	No. of applicants on housing list 31.12.55.
Affpuddle	-	-	-	5	7
Arne	-	-	46	-	16
Bere Regis	-	-	74	-	14
Bloxworth	-	-	8	-	4
Chaldon Herring	-	-	8	-	1
Church Knowle	-	-	6	-	-
Coombe Keynes	-	-	6	-	-
Corfe Castle	-	-	56	-	19
East Holme	-	-	-	-	-
East Lulworth	-	-	6	-	-
East Stoke	-	-	10	-	5
Kimmeridge	-	-	-	-	-
Langton Matravers	-	-	42	-	10
Lytchett Matravers	2	-	84	-	16
Lytchett Minster	14	4	128(6)	-	54
Morden	-	-	22	-	4
Moreton	-	-	-	6	13
Steeple	-	-	4	-	-
Studland	-	-	42	-	8
Tonerspuddle	-	-	-	-	-
Tynham	Military Training area				
Wareham St.Martin	6	-	100(50)	-	57
West Lulworth	-	-	20	-	9
Winfrith	-	-	30	-	10
Wool	-	10	54	-	23
-do- (Bovington)	12	-	140	-	46
Worth Matravers	-	-	6	-	3
Total	34	14	892(56)	11	319

Figures in brackets () indicate temporary prefabricated bungalows included in totals.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There was no serious outbreak of infectious disease in the district during the year. There was one death from acute paralytic poliomyelitis, eleven deaths from pneumonia and one from respiratory tuberculosis.

Acute Poliomyelitis: Two paralytic and two non paralytic cases occurred in Lulworth Camp amongst Service families between the first week in September and the second week of October. Both the paralytic cases were adults, one being fatal. As children from the Camp attended schools in the Swanage, Dorchester and Bovington areas all Camp children were excluded from school, and the Service Medical Authorities enforced restrictions on contacts.

Two paralytic cases amongst Service families were notified in Bovington Camp toward the end of October, but no connection could be established between these and the Lulworth cases. Of the two remaining cases, both paralytic, one occurred in Wool during the last week in June and one in the Studland area during the second week in October: both appear to be isolated cases.

Food Poisoning: Notification was received on 10th. August, of suspected food poisoning in a household of three adults and two children, and a dog aged 18 months. All, except one adult were severely affected with vomiting, diarrhoea, colic and fever. The family kept seven ducks, and about two days before the onset of the illness they ate a salad containing hard boiled duck eggs.

Samples of faeces from all the household, including the dog, were positive. An organism - Salmonella typhi murium, which is commonly associated with food poisoning due to duck eggs, was recovered in each case. Nine eggs which were laid immediately following the last consumed by the family and four freshly laid on the 12th. August, gave a profuse growth of the same organism - Salmonella typhi murium.

It is known that about 1.5 to 2 per cent of all ducks are carriers of the organism Salmonella typhi murium, and that the organism will survive light cooking. It is emphasized that duck eggs should be boiled for at least fifteen minutes or used only for foods requiring a long period of cooking at a high temperature.

Para-typhoid fever: This was an isolated case which was infected from a source outside the district.

Particulars of other cases of infectious diseases notified are given in the tables which follow and call for little comment. Only one case of scarlet fever and one case of measles were admitted to hospital. The one case of dysentery notified was of the Sonne type.

Notifications (Corrected) Figures

Disease	1st. Qtr.	2nd. Qtr.	3rd. Qtr.	4th. Qtr.	Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet fever	-	2	3	5	10	1	-
Whooping cough	12	16	9	2	39	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis -paralytic	-	1	2	3	6	6	1
non -paralytic	-	-	1	1	2	2	-
Measles	32	177	100	6	315	1	-
Pneumonia	1	-	3	3	7	-	2
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Paratyphoid fever	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	1	-	3	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	4	-	4	-	-
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	2	3	3	1	9	7	1
Meninges & CNS	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Other	-	-	-	1	1	-	-

Cases of Infectious diseases notified during 1955

Disease	Total all ages	Age Groups							A.U.
		Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-Ov.	
Scarlet fever	10	-	-	4	6	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	39	4	8	7	17	-	1	2	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis-paralytic	6	-	1	2	1	-	-	2	-
non-paralytic	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Measles	315	4	51	47	180	28	4	1	-
		Under 5	5-14	15-44	45-64	65-Ov.	A.U.		
Acute pneumonia	7	-	1	4	-	2	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid fever	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	3	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	4	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis-Respiratory	9	1	4	4	-	-	-	-	-
Meninges & C.N.S.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

Scabies and Verminous Conditions

There were no cases of scabies or verminous conditions reported during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47. Removal of Persons in Need of Care
and Attention to Suitable Premises

It has not been necessary to take any action under this section of the Act during the year.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for the Purposes of Provision as to Health (including
Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		In- spections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authority	27	21	4	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	36	19	9	-
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority(excluding Outworkers premises)	27	34	3	-
Total	90	74	16	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				No.of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Re- medied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	9	9	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors(S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)					
(a) Insufficient	5	5	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	14	14	-	-	-

OUTWORK

Sections 110 and 111

Nature of Work	No. of Out workers in August List reqd.by Sec. 110(1)(e)	No. of cases of default in sending Lists to Council	No. of Pro- secutions for failure to supply Lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Pro- secu- tions
Wearing apparel (making etc. cleaning and washing).	72	-	-	-	-	-

